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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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### ***NUMBER TWENTY FOUR (2010)***

## **CONTINUING THE PUBLIC SAFETY MEMORIAL COMMISSION**

### **Importance of the Issue**

Every day, throughout our Commonwealth, the courageous men and women of our public safety community dedicate their lives to protecting their neighbors and communities. These brave men and women work tirelessly to make our streets and communities safer.

Unfortunately, every year we mourn the loss of members of Virginia's public safety community. We must forever honor the selfless dedication of these valiant Virginians and their willingness to serve without hesitation. It is essential that we forever remember the incalculable human cost to maintain public safety.

Virginia is one of only six states that does not have a statewide Public Safety Memorial to serve as an enduring acknowledgement of the ultimate sacrifice made by the brave men and women who serve their community and Commonwealth. A Public Safety Memorial will serve as a hallowed ground to forever honor and respect Virginia's fallen heroes.

### **The Public Safety Memorial Commission**

Recognizing the importance of commemorating the courage and integrity of our public safety officers, the Public Safety Memorial Commission was established to design an appropriate memorial to forever remember the courage and sacrifice of Virginia's fallen heroes. Since 2007, the Public Safety Memorial Commission has made tremendous strides, but much work remains to be done.

Virginia's Public Safety Memorial will recognize all public safety officials who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Public safety officers, for the purpose of this Memorial, include law enforcement officers, firefighters, jail and correctional officers, members of the Virginia National Guard and Virginia Defense Force, emergency management and hazardous materials personnel, ABC enforcement agents, volunteer rescue squad members, emergency medical services personnel, conservation police, marine resource officers, state park rangers, and forest wardens.

The location determined best for the Public Safety Memorial, as approved by Governor Timothy M. Kaine through Executive Order 89 (July 2009), is the existing raised planter located in the Darden Memorial Garden outside of the Virginia General Assembly Building.

Accordingly, so that it may complete this Memorial and ensure its future, I hereby continue the Public Safety Memorial Commission to honor these men and women who have died while serving Virginia.

### **Composition of the Commission**

The Public Safety Memorial Commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of Public Safety or her designee. Recognizing that these efforts will require the work of individuals across a broad spectrum of professions and expertise, the Commission shall consist of the Secretary of Administration or her designee, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness or her designee, as well as representatives from state agencies, the General Assembly, and members of the public safety community, appointed by the Governor and serving at my pleasure. Additional members may be appointed at the Governor's discretion.

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but they may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

### **Charge for the Commission**

I hereby direct the Commission to continue its efforts, in partnership with the Virginia Public Safety Foundation, to construct an appropriate Memorial to properly honor and respect those who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving the citizens of the Commonwealth. The Public Safety Memorial Commission's responsibilities shall include:

- Provide leadership and support to the Public Safety Foundation as it solicits funds for the construction and maintenance of the Public Safety Memorial;
- Identify and resolve any engineering or logistical challenges posed by the selected site in the Darden Garden location on Capitol Square;
- Approve any design modifications for engineering, financial, or other reasons;
- Develop criteria for those individuals to be honored by the Public Safety Memorial;

- Take other steps as may be deemed necessary and appropriate to facilitate the establishment of this Memorial; and
- Make recommendations to the Governor to ensure the future of the lasting memorial.

I further direct that all agencies of the Commonwealth provide any assistance that may be requested by the Commission. Staff support for the Commission shall be provided by the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and such other agencies as may be designated by the Governor or the Secretary of Public Safety.

An estimated 200 hours of staff time will be required to support the work of the Commission. Necessary funding to support the Commission and its staff shall be provided from federal funds, private contributions, and state funds appropriated for the same purposes as the Commission, as authorized by Section 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, as well as any other private sources of funding that may be identified. Estimated direct costs for this Commission are \$5,000.00.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect for one year from the date of its signing.

Given under my hand and under the seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010.

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Robert F. McDonnell, Governor

Attest:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth

